

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-02 DHA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05
IGA-02 /083 W
-----127501 131107Z /10

R 121646Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8409
INFO USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CS, PN
SUBJECT: AMB. YOUNG'S MEETING WITH COSTA RICAN LEGISLATIVE
LEADERS

FOLLOWING SAN JOSE TELEGRAM SENT ACTION PARAMARIBO AND PORT
OF SPAIN ON 10 AUG IS REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

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FOR: AMB. YOUNG'S PARTY - JOHN KRIENDLER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CS, PN
SUBJECT: AMB. YOUNG'S MEETING WITH COSTA RICAN LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

1. TRANSMITTED FOR YOUR REVIEW IS SUBJECT REPORTING CABLE
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2. SUMMARY. AMB. YOUNG'S MEETING WITH COSTA RICAN LEGISLATIVE
LEADERS GAVE THEM GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO AIR THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT
COURSE OF US-LA RELATIONS IN HUMAN RIGHTS, PANAMA CANAL
NEGOTIATIONS, AND TRADE ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

3. AMB. YOUNG MET AUG. 9 WITH 12 COSTA RICAN LEGISLATIVE

LEADERS REPRESENTING GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARTIES.
DEPUTY AID ADMINISTRATOR VALDEZ, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SHELTON, DIR OF POLICY PLANNING EIUNADI, POLOFF KRIENDLER,
ECONOFF MATTESON, AMB., DCM AND EMBASSY POLOFF ACCOMPANIED.

4. IN BRIEF OPENING STATEMENTS ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT LAUDED
CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES. AMB. YOUNG
IN RESPONSE NOTED THE INFLUENTIAL REGIONAL ROLE THAT COSTA
RICA PLAYS IN LA AND PARTICULARLY, ITS POSITIVE INFLUENCE
AT THE BOGOTA MEETING. AMB. YOUNG ALSO NOTED THAT RESULTS
OF BOGOTA MEETING SUGERED WELL FOR INCREASED REGIONAL, I.E.
CARIBBEAN BASIN, COOPERATION.

5. COSTA RICAN LEGISLATORS, ALL EXPRESSED OPTIMISM WITH
CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN GENERAL AND ITS HUMAN RIGHTS STAND,
AND THEIR SATISFACTION WITH YOUNG VISIT. IN THEIR COMMENTS
AND QUESTIONS, THE LEGISLATORS COVERED HUMAN RIGHTS AND US
ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE; TRADE/COMMODITIES ISSUES;
PANAMA CANAL; AND FUTURE OF US-LA POLICY.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS. ADVOCACY OF BOTH A STRICT HUMAN RIGHTS
POLICY FOR US-NO ASSISTANCE WHATSOEVER TO THE MILITARY
DICTATORSHIPS-AND A MORE MODERATE LINE WAS HEARD.
CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BOTH RIGHTIST (E.G.
CHILE) AND LEFTIST (E.G. CUBA) WERE VOICED. ONE OPPOSITION
DEPUTY WHO IS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF SOMOZA NOTED THAT US IS ON
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KNIFE EDGE OF DILEMMA OVER HUMAN RIGHTS IN ITS RELATIONS WITH
MILITARY REGIMES, AND OPINED STRONGLY THAT IN SUCH CASES US
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE CAHNNELLED DIRECTLY TO THE
POOR. (IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS WITH LEGISLATORS, IT HAS BEEN
CLEAR THAT THEIR CONSENSUS IS LATTER).

7. PANAMA CANAL. NUMBER OF LEGISLATORS EXPRESSED THEIR SATIS-
FACTION THAT BREAKTHROUGH IN CANAL NEGOTIATION HAD BEEN
ACHIEVED, AND THAT BOGOTA MEETING SEEMED TO HAVE PLAYED A
POSITIVE ROLE. IN RESPONSE TO ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S QUESTION
RE CHANCES OF SENATE RATIFICATION, AMB. YOUNG SAID THAT
PRESIDENT CARTER WILL BE ABLE TO POINT TO STRONG SUPPORT
OF CARIBBEAN DEMOCRACIES FOR A TREATY AS MANIFESTED AT BOGOTA,
AND THIS WILL BE MOST HELPFUL IN RESPONDING TO THOSE IN
SENATE WHO VIEW TREATY AS A BOLSTERING OF PANAMANIAN MILITARY
DICTATORSHIP.

8. ECONOMIC ISSUES: ALTHOUGH PITCHES WERE MADE FOR INCREASED
MEAT QUOTA, NON-DISCRIMINATION RE SUGAR AND DRAWBACK INDUSTRIES,
AND IN GENERAL MORE TRADE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LDC'S IN US,
MOST CONCERN VOICED WAS OVER COFFEE PRICES. NEED TO MAINTAIN
A "JUST PRICE" WAS OBSERVED, AND PREOCCUPATION OVER US HOUSE-

WIVES' COFFEE BOYCOTT VOICED. AMB. YOUNG EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT US CONSUMERS ARE REALLY DEDICATED COFFEE-DRINKERS, AND WILL REMAIN SO. AMB. YOUNG EXPLAINED THAT US CONSUMER REACTION OCCURRED PARTIALLY BECAUSE MANY FELT THAT BRAZILIANS WERE MANIPULATING PRICES, AND ALSO CORRESPONDED TO AN ANTI-BRAZIL MOOD IN CONGRESS DUE TO HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BRAZIL AND BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR OBJECTIVES.

9. US-LA RELATIONS. LEGISLATORS OBSERVED THAT VISITS AND ATTENTION ARE GRATIFYING, BUT ASKED IF CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS REALLY INTERESTED IN LATIN AMERICA. DEPUTY ASS'T SEC. SHELTON AND EUNADI ADDRESSED US VIEW OF LA RELATIONS. AMB. YOUNG RESPONDED THAT PRES. CARTER'S DAILY SPANISH LESSON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD GIVE AN INDICATION OF HOW HE FEELS ABOUT THIS PART OF WORLD. AMB. YOUNG ALSO STATED THAT COSTA RICA'S ACTIVE ROLE IN CARIBBEAN REGION, ITS OWN OUTLOOK AS EXPRESSED BY PRES. ODUBER TO MRS. CARTER, TO HIM, AND TO AMB. TODMAN MAKE SO MUCH GOOD GOOD SENSE THAT THESE VIEWS SIMPLY CANNOT BE IGNORED. HE CONTINUED THAT PROOF OF THE PUDDING WILL BE PANAMA CANAL TREATY (TO WHICH LEGISLATORS READILY AGREED) AND ESPRESSED HOPE THAT THE WORK OF THE FIVE COUNTRIES AT THE BOGOTA MEETING TO MOVE THE US AND PANAMA AWAY FROM DEADLOCK COULD BE THE STIMULUS TO EMBARK ON A NEW REGIONAL POLICY FOR THE CARIBBEAN BASIN. WEISSMAN

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